

July 14, 1971

Mr. James R. Roach
Office of the Chairman
The Board of Foreign Scholarships
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Roach,

Thank you for your letter of July 9th. I am delighted to have an opportunity to recapitulate my appreciation of the Fulbright Exchange Program in the light of my experience as a visitor to Australia in 1957.

I retain the most vivid recollections of that interval in the light of its cultural impact, the personal-professional relationships that it enabled me to establish, and its fruitfulness in my own investigative work.

I visited the University of Melbourne as the guest of the late Professor Sidney Rubbo and Sir Macfarlane Burnet. My teaching in the then new field of microbial genetics was, I was repeatedly told, instrumental in helping Professor Rubbo guide the further development of his department into new and modern lines of inquiry, in closer accord with continuing efforts in this country and elsewhere. At the Hall Institute, with Professor Burnet, I initiated a new line of investigative work in collaboration with a young postdoctoral fellow, Dr. G. Nossal, which introduced me to the field of the relationship between genetics and immunology. After a later tour as visiting professor in this department Dr. Nossal returned to Melbourne a few years ago to succeed Burnet as Director of the Hall Institute where he continues to lead a world renowned and fertile research program.

I was particularly grateful for this opportunity to broaden my scientific and cultural horizons at a time when I had not achieved any evident public visibility. My relationships with these colleagues from Melbourne have continued over the years and I was particularly gratified when Sir Macfarlane, many years my senior, won long overdue recognition in 1960 as a Nobel laureate.

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Scientific matters aside, I have also maintained a long standing interest in Australian cultural and political affairs, and share the belief held by many Australians and too few Americans that the destinies of our two nations are closely interlinked.

In these ways, and particularly in the repeated exchange of very talented people to and from my department, that visit in 1957 has undoubtedly led to a continuous harvest of the intended fruit of that most ~~elusive~~ and most essential understanding among sovereign nations.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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enclosure